

# THE MONTHLY EPITOME,

For DECEMBER 1798.

XCV. *The History of Hindostan*; its Arts, and its Sciences, as connected with the History of the other great Empires of Asia, during the most ancient Periods of the World. With numerous illustrative Engravings. By the AUTHOR of the INDIAN ANTIQUITIES. Vol. II. Parts I. and II. 4to. pp. 372. 1l. 5s. Gardiner, Princes Street.

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EXTRACT FROM THE PREFACE.

“WITH respect to that wonderful composition, the Life of Creeshna itself, the reader will be pleased to peruse it with that degree of candour to which

which a work, not originally intended for a publication, is entitled. It is a faithful though rapid translation by Mr. Halhed from a Persian manuscript, now deposited, together with the translation itself, in the British Museum; it was done for his own private gratification before that gentleman's final, and ever to be lamented, desertion of the Indian muses. I have not presumed to alter it farther than to blot out some parts which, however agreeable to a high-seasoned Oriental palate, appeared to me to glow with colours and images not sufficiently chaste for an European eye. I should have erased more, but it was necessary that the reader should judge for himself concerning this motley character, which has been so impiously paralleled with that of the Christian Messiah. In fact, any more extended erasure would have materially altered the portrait. The reader must see Creethna as he is, to judge of him properly; he must contemplate him with all the puerility and licentiousness, as well as with all the virtue and dignity, attached to his Avatar. I never intended to do the work of the adversary, by making Creethna a *perfect model of an incarnate Deity*. It has cost me immense labour to prepare it in this manner, for the public eye, from a voluminous manuscript which, though the production of an able pen, was by no means sufficiently correct for that eye: many parts still remain obscure, and many Sanscreeet words are still unexplained; yet, imperfect as it is, the public will doubtless think themselves obliged to me for the production of it, and know how to set a proper value upon so curious and estimable a relic of ancient Indian literature, especially when considered in its connexion with other points of unspeakable interest and importance to society.

"It was my anxious wish to have brought down the ancient History of India to the period at which it properly terminates, that of the first invasion of Hindostan by the Arabian generals in the seventh century; but the great length of the eighth Avatar has prevented my descending farther down in the annals of time than the irruption of Alexander. For the history of the intervening period there are few materials of a Sanscreeet kind yet known to Europeans; the Brahmins seem to have been more zealous to preserve

the history of their wretched superstitions than that of the succession of their kings, while the Greek and Roman writers afford but a scanty glimmering of information on that head. It forms, however, a very interesting portion in Asiatic annals, comprehending the history of the Ptolemys in Egypt, of the Seleucidæ, and their descendants in Syria, and of the ancient Parthians; and is intimately connected with that of Greece and Rome. If there remain in India, which there is great reason to doubt, any regular authentic history of the dynasties that flourished during those centuries, they will probably in time be explored and detailed by the persevering industry of the members of the Asiatic Society. My business has been to arrange and combine what has already been explored and presented to the public in detached fragments, and that office I have endeavoured faithfully to execute under the guidance of a pilot, whose decease is the most fatal of all obstacles that could have happened to the completion of a history of India on a more comprehensive scale. To him was equally known the astronomical mythology of Greece and of Hindostan, and he also was able nicely to discriminate in their respective systems between what was history and what was fable. But I need not descant farther on the merits of Sir William Jones; they have been too often and too impressively displayed to need enumeration here. Suffice it to say, while I finally bid adieu to the melancholy subject, that in him Oriental science lost an invaluable patron, the Christian religion an able defender, the Hindoos an upright and dispassionate judge, and human nature itself one of its brightest ornaments."

P. viii.

#### EXTRACTS.

##### THE INVASION OF INDIA BY SEMIRAMIS.

"ABOUT the nineteenth century before Christ, Semiramis, queen of Assyria, having, by the death of Ninus, her husband, succeeded to the sole sovereignty of the vast empire which his arms and valour had acquired, undertook her celebrated expedition into India, an expedition which, from the romantic circumstances recorded to have attended it, has been frequently ranked among the grossest fables of antiquity,

antiquity, but to the general truth of which the annals of India recently investigated bear unequivocal testimony." *Vol. ii. p. 174.*

"The vast empire of Assyria, recorded at that period to have extended from the Persian Gulf to the banks of the Tanais, and from the Indus to the Nile, being in profound peace, that vain-glorious princess turned her restless and ambitious thoughts towards the conquest of a country distinguished by its immense wealth, unequalled beauty, and luxurious fertility of soil. Her preparations were, on all occasions, as formidable as her designs were grand and comprehensive; and she, who erected the towers of haughty Babylon from the dust, deemed it not impossible to level the loftiest cities of India. For three years, we are informed, the army appropriated for the intended irruption was forming, and the bravest and most expert soldiers, from all the provinces subject to Assyria, were enrolled in its number. They were to assemble by a certain period in the kingdom of Bactria, and thence to descend, like a tempest that sweeps all before it, on the devoted country beyond the Indus.

"Semiramis had heard that the chief superiority of the Indians in any land-engagement lay in their elephants; they boasted that to produce those animals was the peculiar privilege of their own country, and thought themselves invincible whilst they had such formidable champions, at once to defend themselves and spread destruction through the ranks of the enemy. To destroy this source of confidence, she is said to have ordered a certain number of counterfeit elephants to be formed out of the skins of beasts curiously sewed together, and stuffed out in such a manner as to resemble the form of that unwieldy animal. These enormous fabrics were placed on the backs of camels, and had each a particular attendant allotted as its conductor, after the manner of real elephants.

"As the Indus was to be passed, and the passage might be disputed, her maritime preparations are represented as not less powerful than those by land. She collected, therefore, from all parts those who were skilled in the construction of vessels proper for the transportation of her innumerable forces over that river; and artificers from Phœnicia, Cyprus, and all the sea-ports

bordering on her Syrian dominions, awed by her menaces, or allured by her bounty, flocked to her capital. In the mean time whole forests were cut down to facilitate the project. Such expedition was used in the execution of her commands, that, in the third year from their commencement, these mighty efforts being completed, the immense army of the Assyrians assembled on the frontiers of Bactria towards India, while their naval armament darkened all the western shores of the adjoining Indus.

"Staurobates is said, by the Greek writers, to have been at that period the reigning monarch of India, and, consistently with the native accounts, he must have been of the dynasty of the Suryabans, or race of the sun, who sat on the throne during the first ages of the Cali Yug.

"Staurobates, undaunted by the menaces of Semiramis, and unmoved at the report of her formidable preparations, which seemed to threaten no less than the entire destruction of his empire, prepared with equal vigour to defend himself against the encroachment of a foe, provoked by no insults, and inflamed by no wrongs, but urged only by the blind fury of ambition to attempt the subversion of the ancient throne of India. To ward off the expected blow, it became necessary that the whole resources of the empire should be called forth, and all the forces it contained should be brought into immediate action. An army, far superior in number even to that of the Assyrian queen, was in a short time collected, and every arm able to draw the bow or launch the javelin was extended in its defence. A more numerous train of elephants than had ever yet assembled on her plains, and decorated with every dreadful apparatus of offensive war that could impress an enemy with terror, was brought together to support this immense army, and to crush the enemy advancing in vain confidence of victory. But the urgency of so critical a situation required not only the most strenuous exertions by land; a marine, proportionably numerous, was likewise indispensably necessary to the salvation of the empire. To obtain this additional security, 4,000 barks were, with all expedition, constructed out of those large bamboo canes with which the Indian rivers abound, and which are neither subject

to rot or be eaten of the worm. These, strongly compacted together, formed vessels equally calculated for swiftness and security. In these vessels, without delay, a considerable body of the Indian forces embarked, and waited in order and silence the approach of the Assyrians.

"If any credit can be given to the exaggerated account of Suidas, the army of Semiramis consisted, on this celebrated expedition, of above 4,000,000 of infantry and cavalry, 100,000 chariots armed with scythes, 200,000 camels for various uses, and 3,000 vessels\*. The appointed general of this vast force was Derceteus; although the queen herself, when she arrived near the scene of action, took the command, and marched in person at the head of her forces. When this vast train arrived at the banks of the Indus, and Semiramis observed the enemy's fleet arranged along the opposite shore, she gave orders for the immediate launching of the vessels she had constructed, and manned them with the most determined and experienced soldiers in her army. The shock is recorded to have been terrible, and the battle, for a long time, was obstinately maintained on both sides, but the greater experience in naval concerns of the Phœnicians and other maritime adventurers, who attended the Assyrian army, and who had been judiciously blended with the troops, gave, at length, a decided superiority to her fleet, and victory declared for the invaders. Above a thousand of the Indian vessels were sunk, and an immense multitude taken prisoners. The triumph of victory added new fury to the wild and boundless ambition which goaded the mind of Semiramis. She commanded her generals to let loose their fury upon the frontiers of the invaded country. The whole coast of the Indus was desolated for many leagues, and many rich and noble cities in its neighbourhood were first plundered and then levelled with the ground.

"The wary Indian monarch, although discomfited, disdained to despond under the difficulty that involved him; but, rallying his forces, retired to some distance from the Indus, and, drawing up his troops in order of battle, invited the exulting enemy to re-

new the engagement by land. Semiramis, mistaking this politic and cautious retreat for precipitate flight, immediately ordered a bridge of boats to be constructed and extended quite across that wide and turbulent stream, on which, with her whole army, she prepared to pass with all the arrogance of a conqueror. Having arrived in safety on the eastern shore, and appointed a guard of 60,000 men to defend the bridge, she hastened with far more celerity than prudence to the field of battle, disposing her counterfeited elephants in front to intimidate the enemy, who, at the sight of them, was seized with equal wonder and consternation. The wonder, however, was turned into just contempt; and that consternation into shouts of triumph, when, by some deserters from the Assyrians, they were informed, that the objects of their astonishment were only the artificial fabrication of the martial genius of Semiramis, and that the war-elephant still remained the peculiar and unrivalled appendage of an Indian army. To remove every apprehension on that head, heralds were commanded, by sound of trumpet, publicly to proclaim this intelligence throughout the camp; and the van of either army now meeting, commenced the important conflict that was to decide the fate of India.

"At the first onset a circumstance occurred which greatly contributed to keep alive the ardour of the Assyrians, and inspire them with the strongest hopes of a decisive victory. The advanced legions of the Indian army consisted of cavalry and armed chariots; and the horses, to whom elephants were no novel object, rushed on to the conflict with dreadful impetuosity; but, when they approached nearer the line of those pretended animals, the strong and offensive odour emitted by the hides so terrified and scared them, that they were immediately thrown into the utmost disorder: the greater part threw their riders to the ground, or hurried them amazed and nerveless into the very centre of the Assyrian army. The active exploring eye of Semiramis, who was on fire to finish the undertaking she had so successfully begun, soon discovered the disaster; and that intrepid princess, instantly placing herself at the head of a select

\* "See Suidas on the word Semiramis."



body of her bravest veterans, rushed upon the disordered ranks of those advanced legions, effected their complete overthrow, and drove them back to the main body of the Indians. Staurobates, unable to account for this fresh malady, was equally confounded and astonished, but, quickly recovering from his confusion, exerted himself with resolution proportioned to the emergency, and moved forward with that vast body of infantry which composed the centre. The elephants followed after in an immense train, and in a short time both armies were completely and in every part engaged. Than such an engagement, if imagination has not had too great a share in its formation, nothing can be conceived more terrible and sanguinary; whether we consider the number of the contending armies, or the magnitude of the prize for which they separately fought. In fact, we are told, that the shock was beyond description violent, that the action was long and obstinate, and the carnage terrible, as well from the number as ferocity of the real elephants in the Indian army, who, raging through the field, spread havoc and dismay among the ranks of the enemy, while their monstrous and inanimate representatives, on the contrary, served only to encumber the Assyrian army and impede its motions. Harassed by the resolute assaults of the Indians on the one hand, and trampled by the enraged elephants on the other, the fortitude of the Assyrians at length gave way, and they were pursued with great slaughter from the field to the banks of the Indus. Towards the close of the engagement, the monarch of India and the empress of Assyria met, and personal combat ensued between these mighty competitors for fame and empire. Conspicuous throughout the day on an elephant of uncommon magnitude, the former had fulfilled every duty of an active and wise commander, and the latter had fought with that romantic spirit of heroism which distinguished every action of her life. She now hoped to bring the important point in debate to a speedy conclusion, and, by the death of Staurobates, obtain the summit of her wishes. All her efforts, however, were ineffectual; nor was she fortunate enough to

make her royal antagonist feel the force of any weapon hurled by her arm. Staurobates, on the contrary, twice wounded the female invader of his realm; the first time with an arrow that grazed her arm, and the second time with a javelin that pierced her shoulder. Stung with the agony of her wounds, but still more deeply galled by the rout of her army, whom she beheld flying on every side from the field in the utmost disorder and confusion, the distracted queen now turned the head of her horse towards the Indus, and arrived in time to superintend the disgraceful passage of her squadrons over that river on which they had so lately been triumphant. The passage, however, was not accomplished but with considerable hazard, and with the loss of the greater part of her remaining forces; for, so hot was the pursuit of the Indians, that, to avoid their fury, thousands plunged into the stream, and were drowned; while thousands more were trampled down in the hurry of tumultuous debarkation, and received a far less honourable death than their companions who died bravely fighting in the field of battle. The enraged Semiramis now prepared to take a severe revenge for the defeat of her troops. Observing that the grofs of her army had gained the shore, and that the Indians continued to pursue them over the bridge which she had constructed, she commanded that bridge to be suddenly cut down, by which an immense multitude of Indians were instantly engulfed, while others were hurried down that rapid stream, or dashed to pieces on its rocky banks.—This is the substance of what Diodorus Siculus hath handed down to us on the authority of Ctesias. Other writers of antiquity represent the sequel as still more fatal; for we are informed by some that the perished in the expedition; and, by others, that she made her escape with only twenty persons in her retinue\*.

"On the whole of this piece of history, it may be remarked, that, though there can scarcely be a doubt of there having lived, in the early ages of the Assyrian empire, such a person as Semiramis (for some authors have even doubted her existence), yet, that she ever perform-

\* "Consult *Diod. Sic. lib. ii. p. 107.*; and *Strabo, lib. x. p. 745.*"

ed such wonderful feats as are ascribed to her, or in person led even an army into India, much more an army of such astonishing magnitude, in that infant state of the world, is a circumstance in the highest degree suspicious. Sir Walter Raleigh \*, on this subject, has very properly observed, no one place on earth could possibly have nourished so vast a concourse of living creatures as, on this occasion, are said to have assembled in Bactria, 'had every man and beast but fed on grass.' And the remark of a later writer †, on the million which Xerxes is said to have conducted out of Persia into Greece, is pointedly applicable to the imaginary myriads of Semiramis; that the destruction of so mighty a host must have convulsed the whole of Asia; that 'numerous as the sands of the shore' is an expression which, at all times, has been used by Oriental writers in regard to defeated armies; and that the source of these misrepresentations exists in the exaggerating fancy of poets, in the insatiable pride and exorbitant ambition of princes, and in the servile adulation of their biographers.

"I have already observed, that, from the romantic nature of her exploits and the exaggeration of her historians, the whole history of Semiramis and her triumphs has, by many judicious historians and critics, been considered as fabulous. Mr. Bryant contends, that no such persons ever existed as Ninus and Semiramis; that, by the former, we must understand the Ninevites collectively; and, by the latter, a people called Samarin, from their insignia, which was a dove, expressed Semaramas. He is of opinion, that the actions of a whole dynasty have been ascribed to two individuals; for he admits that those people conquered the Medes and Bactrians; extending their dominions westward as far as Phrygia and the river Tanais, and southward as far as Arabia and Egypt. Under them also, he contends, the kingdoms of Assyria and Babylon were united; and that this union of the two empires is allegorically termed the marriage of Ninus and Semiramis." Vol. ii. p. 178.

XCVI. *Illustrations of Sterne*: with other Essays and Verses. By JOHN FERRIAR, M. D. 8vo. pp. 314-5s. Cadell and Davies.

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EXTRACTS.

MARY QUEEN OF SCOTS AND CHASTELARD.

"BRANTOME, an eye-witness of the early part of her life (Mary Stuart), informs us that she was much attached

\* "See Raleigh's History of the World, p. 125."

† "Mr. Richardson's Dissertation on Eastern Manners, &c. p. 54, oct. edit." to

to literature, and that she patronized Ronfard and Du Bellay. Her dirge on the death of Francis II. which Brantome has preserved, contains some touches of true feeling amidst its conceits.

"The affair of CHASTELARD, of which the same writer gives us an account, shows her affability to men of genius; though it must be confessed, that she exhibited at last, a degree of prudery, perhaps too austere.

"Chastelard was a young man of family and talents, who had embarked in the suite of Mary, when she returned from France, to take possession of a disgusting sovereignty. He paid his court to the queen by composing several pieces of poetry, during the voyage, and one among the rest, which I have been tempted to imitate from Brantome's sketch of it. 'Et entre autres il en fit une d'elle sur un traduction en Italien; car il le parloit et l'entendait bien, qui commence: *Che giova posseder citta e regni, &c.* Qui est un sonnet très-bien fait, dont la substance est telle: *De quoi sert posséder tant de royaumes, cités, villes, provinces; commander a tant de peuples; se faire respecter, craindre et admirer, et voir d'un chacun; et dormir vefve, seule, et froide comme glaci?*

"What boots it to possess a royal state,  
To view fair subject-towns from princely tow'rs,  
With mask and song to sport in frolic bow'rs,  
Or watch with prudence o'er a nation's fate,

If the heart throb not to a tender mate;  
If doom'd, when seas are o'er, and midnight hours,  
Still to lie lonely in a widow'd bed,  
And waste in chill regret the secret hours?

Happier the lowly maid, by fondness led  
To meet the transports of some humble swain,  
Than she, the object of her people's care,  
Rever'd by all, who finds no heart to share,  
And pines, too great for love, in splendid pain.

"Mary sought relief from the tiresome uniformity of the voyage, in attending to the productions of the young

Frenchman; she even deigned to reply to them, and amused herself frequently with his conversation. This dangerous familiarity overpowered the heart of poor Chastelard. He conceived a hopeless and unconquerable passion, and found himself, almost at the same moment, obliged to quit the presence of its object, and to return to his native country.

"Soon afterwards, the civil wars began in France; and Chastelard, who was a Protestant, eagerly sought a pretence for revisiting Scotland, in his aversion to take arms against the royal party. Mary received him with goodness, but she soon repented her condescension. His passion no longer knew any bounds, and he was found one evening, by her women, concealed under her bed, just before the retired to rest. She consulted equally her dignity and her natural mildness, by pardoning this tally of youthful frenzy, and commanding the affair to be suppressed. But Chastelard was incorrigible: he repeated his offence, and the queen delivered him up to her courts of justice, by which he was sentenced to be beheaded.

"His conduct at the time of his death was romantic in the extreme. He would accept no spiritual assistance, but read, with great devotion, Ronfard's Hymn on Death. Hethen turned towards the queen's apartments, and exclaimed, *Farewell the fairest, and most cruel princess in the world*; after which he submitted to the stroke of justice, with the courage of a *Rinaldo* or an *Olindo*." P. 17.

WRITERS IMITATED BY STERNE—  
BURTON—BACON—BLOUNT—  
MONTAIGNE—BISHOP HALL.

"STERNE was no friend to gravity, for which he had very good reasons; it was a quality which excited his disgust, even in authors who lived in times that exacted an appearance of it. Like the manager in the farce\*, he sometimes 'took the best part of their tragedy to put it into his own comedy.' Previous to the Reformation, great latitude in manners was assumed by the clergy. Bandello, who published three volumes of tales, in which he often laid aside decorum, was a bishop; and perhaps some of Sterne's

\* "The Critic."



friends expected him to become one also, without considering the severity of conduct required in protestant prelates. His friend Hall has run the parallel to my hands.

"Why mayn't BANDELLO have a rap? Why mayn't I imitate BANDELLO? There never was a prelate's cap Bestow'd upon a droller fellow. Like TRISTRAM in mirth delighting; Like TRISTRAM a pleasant writer; Like his, I hope that TRISTRAM's writing Will be rewarded with a mitre\*.

"Sterne has contrived to give a ludicrous turn to those passages which he took from BURTON's *Anatomy of Melancholy*, a book, once the favourite of the learned and the witty, and a source of surreptitious learning to many others besides our author. I had often wondered at the pains bestowed by Sterne in ridiculing opinions not fashionable in his time, and had thought it singular, that he should produce the portrait of his sophist, Mr. Shandy, with all the stains and mouldiness of the last century about him. I am now convinced that most of the singularities of that character were drawn from the perusal of BURTON." P. 55.

"The *Anatomy of Melancholy*, though written on a regular plan, consists chiefly of quotations: the author has honestly termed it a *cento*. He collects, under every division, the opinions of a multitude of writers, without regard to chronological order, and has too often the modesty to decline the interposition of his own sentiments. Indeed the bulk of his materials generally overwhelms him. In the course of his folio, he has contrived to treat a great variety of topics, that seem very loosely connected with the general subject, and, like Bayle, when he starts a favourite train of quotations, he does not scruple to let the digression outrun the principal question. Thus from the doctrines of religion to military discipline, from inland navigation to the morality of dancing-schools, every thing is discolled and determined.

"In his introductory address to the reader, where he indulges himself in an Utopian sketch of a perfect government (with due homage previously paid to the character of James I.), we

find the origin of Mr. Shandy's notions on this subject. The passages are too long to be transcribed.

"The quaintness of many of his divisions seems to have given Sterne the hint of his ludicrous titles to several chapters; and the risible effect of BURTON's grave endeavours to prove indisputable facts by weighty quotations, he has happily caught, and sometimes well burlesqued. The archness which BURTON displays occasionally, and his indulgence of playful digressions from the most serious discussions, often give his style an air of familiar conversation, notwithstanding the laborious collections which supply his text. He was capable of writing excellent poetry, but he seems to have cultivated this talent too little. The English verses prefixed to his book, which possess beautiful imagery, and great sweetness of verification, have been frequently published. His Latin elegiac verses addressed to his book show a very agreeable turn for raillery." P. 58.

"It is very singular, that in the introduction to the Fragment on Whiskers, which contains an evident copy, Sterne should take occasion to abuse plagiarists. 'Shall we for ever make new books, as apothecaries make new mixtures, by pouring only out of one vessel into another? Are we for ever to be twisting and untwisting the same rope? for ever in the same track—' for ever at the same pace?' And it is more singular that all this declamation should be taken, word for word, from BURTON's introduction.

"As apothecaries, we make new mixtures every day, pour out of one vessel into another; and as those old Romans robbed all the cities of the world, to set out their bad-sixed Rome, we skim off the cream of other men's wits, pick the choice flowers of their tilled gardens, to set out our own sterile plots &c. Again, 'We weave the same web still, twist the same rope again and again &c.' P. 66.

"One denier, cried the order of mercy—one single denier, in behalf of a thousand patient captives, whose eyes look towards heaven and you for their redemption.

"—The Lady Bauffiere rode on.

"Pity the unhappy, said a devout, venerable, hoary-headed man, meek-

\* "Zachary's Tale."

§ "Ib. p. 5."

† "BURTON, p. 4."

ly holding up a box, begirt with iron, in his withered hands—I beg for the unfortunate—good my lady, 'tis for a prison—for an hospital—'tis for an old man—a poor man undone by shipwreck, by suretyship, by fire—I call God and all his angels to witness—'tis to clothe the naked—to feed the hungry—'tis to comfort the sick and the broken-hearted.

“—The Lady Bauffiere rode on.

“A decayed kinsman bowed himself to the ground.

“—The Lady Bauffiere rode on.

“He ran begging bare-headed on one side of her palfrey, conjuring her by the former bonds of friendship, alliance, consanguinity, &c.—cousin, aunt, sister, mother—for virtue's sake, for your own, for mine, for Christ's sake, remember me—pity me.

“—The Lady Bauffiere rode on.”

“The citation of the original passage from Burton will confirm all I have said of his style.

“A poor decayed kinsman of his sets upon him by the way in all his jollity, and runs begging bare-headed by him, conjuring him by those former bonds of friendship, alliance, consanguinity, &c. uncle, cousin, brother, father,—show some pity for Christ's sake, pity a sick man, an old man, &c. he cares not, ride on: pretend sickness, inevitable loss of limbs, plead suretyship, or shipwreck, fires, common calamities, show thy wants and imperfections,—swear, protest, take God and all his angels to witness, quære peregrinum, thou art a counterfeited crank, a cheater, he is not touched with it, pauper ubique jacet, ride on, he takes no notice of it. Put up a supplication to him in the name of a thousand orphans, an hospital, a spittle, a prison as he goes by, they cry out to him for aid: ride on—Show him a decayed bawen, a bridge, a school, a fortification, &c. or some public work: ride on. Good your worship, your honour, for God's sake, your country's sake: ride on!†.” P. 69.

“Let us follow Sterne again. ‘Returning out of Asia, when I sailed from Egina towards Megara, I began to view the country round about. Egina was behind me, Megara was before, Pyraeus on the right hand, Corinth on the left. What flourishing towns now prostrate on the earth!

‘Alas! alas! said I to myself, that a man should disturb his soul for the loss of a child, when so much as this lies awfully buried in his presence. Remember, said I to myself again—remember that thou art a man.’

“This is, with some slight variations, Burton's translation of Servius's letter. Sterne alters just enough, to show that he had not attended to the original. Burton's version follows.

“Returning out of Asia, when I sailed from Egina towards Megara, I began to view the country round about. Egina was behind me, Megara before, Pyraeus on the right hand, Corinth on the left. What flourishing towns heretofore, now prostrate and overwhelmed before mine eyes! Alas, why are we men so much disquieted with the departure of a friend, whose life is much shorter? when so many goodly cities lie buried before us. Remember, O Servius, thou art a man; and with that I was much confirmed, and corrected myself.” P. 76.

“Again—Consider, brother Toby, when we are, death is not, and when death is, we are not.—So Burton translates a passage in Seneca: When we are, death is not; but when death is, then we are not. The original words are, *quum nos sumus, mors non adest; cum vero mors adest, tum nos non sumus.*

“For this reason, continued my father, it is worthy to recollect, how little alteration in great men the approaches of death have made. Vespasian died in a jest—Galba with a sentence—Septimius Severus in a dispatch; Tiberius in dissimulation, and Cæsar Augustus in a compliment. This conclusion of so remarkable a chapter is copied, omitting some quotations, almost verbatim, from Lord Verulam's Essay on Death.

“Sterne has taken two other passages from this short essay: ‘There is no terror, brother Toby, in its looks, but what it borrows from groans and convulsions—and the blowing of noses, and the wiping away of tears with the bottoms of curtains in a dying man's room.’ Thus Bacon—‘Groans and convulsions, and discoloured face, and friends weeping, and blacks, and obsequies, and the like, show death terrible.’ Again, Corporal Trim, in his harangue, ‘in hot pursuit, the wound itself which brings him is not

\* “Trifram Shandy, vol. v. chap. i.” † “Anat. of Melanch. p. 269.”

‘felt.’

‘felt.’ Bacon says, ‘*He that dies in an earnest pursuit, is like one that is wounded in hot blood, who for the time scarce feels the hurt.*’

“Among these instances of remarkable deaths, I am surprised that the curious story of Cardinal Bentivoglio did not occur to Sterne. When the cardinal entered the conclave, after the death of Urban VIII. he was unfortunately lodged in the chamber next to one who slept and snored *quantum poterat*, says Erythraeus, all night long. Poor Bentivoglio, worn down to a shadow by his literary pursuits, and his disappointments, and already but too wakeful, passed eleven nights without sleep, by the snoring of his neighbour; when symptoms of fever appearing, he was removed to a more quiet room, in which he soon finished his days.” P. 79.

“The fragment respecting the Abderitans, in the Sentimental Journey, is taken from Burton’s chapter of *Artificial Allurements* \*. ‘*At Abdera in Thrace (says Burton) Andromeda, one of Euripides’ tragedies, being played, the spectators were so much moved with the object, and those pathetic speeches of Perseus, among the rest, O Cupid prince of gods and men, &c. that every man almost, a good while after, spoke pure iambics, and raved still on Perseus’s speech, O Cupid, prince of gods and men. As car-men, boys, and prentices, when a new song is published with us, go singing that new tune still in the streets, they continually acted that tragical part of Perseus, and in every man’s mouth was, O Cupid, in every street, O Cupid, in every house almost, O Cupid, prince of gods and men; pronouncing still, like stage-players, O Cupid. They were so possessed all with that rapture, and thought of that pathetic love-speech, they could not, a long time after, forget, or drive it out of their minds, but, O Cupid, prince of gods and men, was ever in their mouths.*’ Why Sterne should have called this a fragment, I cannot imagine; unless, as Burton forgot to quote his author, Sterne was not aware that the story was taken from the introduction to Lucian’s Essay on the Method of writing History.

“Burton has spoiled this passage by an unfaithful translation. Sterne has

worked it up to a beautiful picture, but very different from the original in Lucian, with which, I am persuaded, he was unacquainted.

“That part of Mr. Shandy’s letter to Uncle Toby, which consists of obsolete medical practices, is taken from one of Burton’s chapters on the cure of Love-melancholy †.

“Gordonius’s prescription of a severe beating for the cure of love, seems to have entertained Sterne greatly. This remedy was once a favourite with physicians, in the cure of many diseases: there was then good reason for giving *birch* a place in the dispensaries. To say nothing of Luther’s practice in the case of his maid-servant, which I shall have occasion to mention afterwards, we find in the Appendix to Wepfer’s *Historia Apoplecticorum*, an account of a soldier, who prevented an attack of the apoplexy, by flogging himself, till blood ran freely from his back and nostrils. Oribasius, one of the virtuosi of that time, wrote to recommend whipping in fevers. Dr. Masgrave quotes a German physician, who cured two of his patients of dysentery, by drubbing them as much as was sufficient ‡.

“The practice of these terrible doctors among unfortunate lunatics, is too notorious. One of them directs the application for love-melancholy in this elegant manner, in his book; *si juvenis est, flagelletur ejusculus cum verberibus §, et si non sistit, ponatur in fundo turris cum pane et aqua, &c.*

“Campanella tells a curious story of an Italian prince, an excellent musician, *qui alium deponere non poterat, nisi verberatus a servo ad id adfinito ||*. I omit many other prescriptions of the same kind. These instances are sufficient to establish the predilection of the faculty for this practice, which Butler has so highly celebrated for its moral tendency:

“Whipping that’s virtue’s governess,  
Tut’rers of arts and sciences;  
That mends the gross mistakes of nature,  
And puts new life into dull matter;  
That lays foundation for renown,  
And all the honours of the gown ¶.

“Peter I. of Russia seems to have

\* “Page 301.”

† “Anatomy of Melancholy, p. 333 to 335.”

‡ “Of the Qualities of the Nerves, p. 138.” § “Meibomius, p. 5, et seq.”

|| “Idem.”

¶ “Hudibras, part ii. canto i.”

adopted this philosophy, for we are assured that he was accustomed to cane his ministers and courtiers, for high misdemeanours, with his own imperial hands.

"Sterne has made frequent references to Montaigne: the best commentary on the fifth chapter of *Triftram Shandy*, vol. VIII. is Montaigne's essay on the subject of that chapter.

"Charges of plagiarism in his Sermons have been brought against Sterne, which I have not been anxious to investigate, as in that species of composition the principal matter must consist of repetitions. But it has long been my opinion, that the manner, the style, and the selection of subjects for those sermons, were derived from the excellent *Contemplations* of Bishop Hall. There is a delicacy of thought, and tenderness of expression in the good Bishop's compositions, from the transusion of which Sterne looked for immortality." P. 90.

"Sterne's twelfth Sermon, on the Forgiveness of Injuries, is merely a dilated commentary on the beautiful conclusion of the *Contemplation* 'of Joseph.'

"The sixteenth Sermon contains a more striking imitation. 'There is no small degree of malicious craft in fixing upon a season to give a mark of enmity and ill-will;—a word, a look, which, at one time, would make no impression,—at another time wounds the heart; and, like a shaft flying with the wind, pierces deep, which with its own natural force, would scarce have reached the object aimed at.'

"This is little varied from the original: 'There is no small cruelty in the picking out of a time for mischief; that word would scarce gall at one season, which at another kills it. The same shaft flying with the wind pierces deep, which against it, can hardly find strength to stick upright'."

"In Sterne's fifth Sermon, the *Contemplation* of 'Elijah with the Sareptan,' is closely followed. Witness this passage out of others: 'The prophet follows the call of his God:—the same hand which brought him to the gate of the city, had led also the poor widow out of her doors, oppressed with sorrow †.'

"'The prophet follows the call of his God; the same hand that brought him to the gate of Sarepta, led also this poor widow out of her doors †.'

"The succeeding passages which correspond are too long for insertion.

"Sterne has acknowledged his acquaintance with this book, by the diffingenuity of two ludicrous quotations in *Triftram Shandy* §.

"The use which Sterne made of Burton and Hall, and his great familiarity with their works, had considerable influence on his style; it was rendered, by assimilation with theirs, more easy, more natural, and more expressive. Every writer of taste and feeling must indeed be invigorated, by drinking at the 'pure well of English undeified;' but like the Fountain of Youth, celebrated in the old romances, its waters generally elude the utmost efforts of those who strive to appropriate them." P. 97.

"There is one passage in the seventh volume, which the circumstances of Sterne's death render pathetic. A believer in the doctrine of pre-sentiment would think it a prop to his theory. It is as striking as Swift's digression on madness, in the Tale of a Tub.

"'Was I in a condition to stipulate with death—I should certainly declare against submitting to it before my friends; and therefore I never seriously think upon the mode and manner of this great catastrophe, which generally takes up and torments my thoughts as much as the catastrophe itself, but I constantly draw the curtain across it with this wish, that the Disposer of all things may so order it, that it happen not to me in my own house—but rather in some decent inn'—At home,—I know it,—the concern of my friends, and the last services of wiping my brows and smoothing my pillow, will so crucify my soul, that I shall die of a distemper which my physician is not aware of: but in an inn, the few cold offices I wanted, would be purchased with a few guineas, and paid me with an undisturbed but punctual attention.' It is known that Sterne died in hired lodgings, and I have been told, that his attendants robbed him even of his gold sleeve-buttons, while he was expiring.

\* "Hall's Shimei Cursing." † "Sterne." ‡ "Bishop Hall, p. 1323."  
§ "Vol. I. chap. xxii. and vol. VII. chap. xiii.

"Yet a paragraph in Burnet's History of his own Times has been pointed out, in a periodical work \*, from which both the sentiments and expressions of Sterne, in this passage, were certainly taken. This appears to me one of the most curious detections of his imitations; but I shall not be surprised if many others, equally unexpected, should be noticed hereafter. The extract from Burnet follows:

"He (Archbishop Leighton) used often to say, that if he were to choose a place to die in, it should be an inn; it looking like a pilgrim's going home, to whom this world was all as an inn, and who was weary of the noise and confusion in it. He added, that the officious tenderness and care of friends was an entanglement to a dying man; and that the unconcerned attendance of those that could be procured in such a place would give less disturbance †." P. 174.

KNASTER;

AN ELEGY.

Written in 1791.

"THE following elegy was originally written, to rally a particular friend on his attachment to German tobacco, and German literature. It is well known to the learned, that the tobacco chiefly smoked by philosophers in Germany, is denominated Knaster; but it may be necessary to apprize the reader, that when this poem was composed, the fragrant weed was sold in covers, marked as low-priced tea, for the purpose of evading the excise laws. The subject did not appear considerable enough to excite the sympathy of the public, till I found the Professor KOTZEBUE had founded the distress of a serious comedy on a similar incident. In his *Indians in England* ‡, he represents an amiable baronet, overwhelmed with affliction, from the want of a pot of porter, and a pipe of tobacco. Convinced of my error, by the approbation with which his work has been received, I have ventured to draw my elegy from the heap of my papers, and to produce it, with some slight alterations, and with the suppression of all personal allusions.

KNASTER.

"DEEP in a den, conceal'd from  
Phœbus' beams,  
Where neighb'ring IRWELL leads his  
fable streams,  
Where misty dye-rooms fragrant scents  
bestow,  
And fires more fierce than love for  
ever glow,  
Dæmetas fate; his drooping head,  
oppress'd  
By heavy care, hung fullen on his  
breast:  
His idle pipe was thrown neglected by,  
His books were tumbled, and his curls  
awry.  
Beneath, the furnace sigh'd in thicker  
smoke,  
Each loom return'd his groans with  
double stroke;  
In mournful heaps around his fossils lay,  
And each sad crystal shot a wat'ry ray.  
'Ah! what,' he cry'd, 'avails an  
honour'd place,  
'Or what the praise of learning's hectic  
race!  
'In vain, to boast my well-instructed  
eyes,  
'I dip in buckets, or in baskets rise;  
'Now plung'd, like Hob, to sprawl in  
dirty wells,  
'Now bent, with demon-forms, in  
murky cells,  
'Or where columnar salt enchants the  
foul,  
'Or starry roofs enrich the northern  
hole.  
'Not me th' adjacent furnace can de-  
light,  
'That cheers, with chemic gleam, the  
languid night.  
'In vain my crystals boast their angles  
true,  
'In vain my port presents the genuine  
hue;  
'Nor spars nor wine my spirits can re-  
store,  
'My Knaster's out, and pleasure is no  
more.  
'To German books for refuge shall  
I fly?  
'Without my Knaster these no bliss  
supply.  
'Here in light tomes grave MEINERS,  
prone to pore,  
'Like thin bank-notes, confines a  
weighty store;

\* "Gentleman's Magazine, for June 1798, under the signature of R. F."

† "Vol. II. p. 259, 2vo."

‡ "See 'The German Miscellany,' by Mr. Thompson."



- \* Here BURGER's muse, with ghostly  
terrors pale,  
\* Runs, 'hurry-scurry \*,' through the  
nursery-tale;  
\* Here HUON loves, while wizard-  
thunders roll,  
\* Here Gorgon-SCHILLER petrifies the  
foul;  
\* CRELL's footy chemists here their  
lights impart;  
\* Here PALLAS, skill'd in ev'ry barbarous  
art.  
\* In vain to me each shining page is  
spread,  
\* Without tobacco ne'er compos'd—  
nor read.  
† 'Who Knafter loves not, be he  
doom'd to feed  
\* With Cassres foul, or suck Virginia's  
weed.  
‡ 'At morn I love segars, at noon  
admire  
\* The British compound, pearly from  
the fire;  
\* But Knafter always, Knafter is my  
song,  
\* In studious gloom, or 'mid th' assem-  
bly's throng.  
\* Let pompous BRUCE describe in  
boastful style,  
\* The wondrous springs of fertilizing  
Nile:  
\* Fool! for so many restless years to  
roam,  
\* To drink such water as we find at  
home;  
\* And know, to end his long, roman-  
tic dreams,  
\* That Nile arises—much like other  
streams.  
\* Far other streams let me discover  
here,  
\* Of yellow grog, or briskly-sparkling  
beer!  
\* But more my glory, more my pride,  
to see  
\* My Knafter cas'd, with pious fraud,  
like tea;  
\* Glad soars the muse, and crowing  
claps her wings,  
\* At my discovery, hid, like his, from  
kings.  
\* Some chase the fair, some dirty  
grubs employ,  
\* And some the ball, and some the race  
enjoy.  
\* COOPER the courting Sciences de-  
nies,  
\* And from their envied love to bleach-  
ing flies.  
\* Let serious fiddling nobler minds  
engage,  
\* Or dark black-letter charm the studi-  
ous sage;  
\* I'd envy none their rattles, could I  
sit  
\* To feast on Knafter, and Teutonic  
wit.  
"Lo, while I speak the furnace-red  
decays,  
And coy by fits the modest moon  
beam plays,  
Which through yond' threat'ning  
clouds, that bode a shower,  
Just tips with tender light the Old  
Church tower.  
Now wheels the doubtful bat in blun-  
d'ring rings,  
Now, 'Half past ten,' the doleful  
watchman sings.  
To-morrow *Bowser* supplies my fav'rite  
store:  
My Knafter's out—and I can watch no  
more."

P. 303.

XCVII. *A Voyage to the South Atlan-  
tic and round Cape Horn into the  
Pacific Ocean, for the Purpose of  
extending the Spermaceti Whale  
Fisheries, and other Objects of  
Commerce, by ascertaining the  
Ports, Bays, Harbours, and an-  
choring Births, in certain Islands  
and Coasts in those Seas, at which  
the Ships of the British Merchants  
might be refitted. Undertaken and  
performed by Captain JAMES  
COLNETT, of the Royal Navy,  
in the Ship Rattler. 4to. pp. 179-  
11. 5s. Arrowsmith, Charles Street,  
Soho; Egerton.*

\* "Hurry-scurry: one of the phrases, by which some translators of Burger's  
Leonore have attempted to convey an adequate impression of the energy and  
elegance of their original."

† "Qui Bavium non odit, &c."

‡ "In spring the fields, in autumn hills I love,  
At morn the plains, at noon the shady grove,  
But Delia always; absent from her sight,  
Nor plains at morn, nor groves at noon delight." POPE.

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2. *A Chart, showing the Track of the Ship Rattler from Rio Janeiro round Cape Horn to the Coast of California.*
3. *Plan of the Islands Felix and Ambrose.*
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5. *Plan of the Island Cocos.*
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7. *Plan of the Islands of Revillagigedo.*
8. *Headlands of Chatham Bay—Part of the Isle of Socora and Diego Ramirez.*
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*Chap. XI.* September.—From Isle St. Helena to England.

## SKETCH OF THE INTRODUCTION.

CAPTAIN Colnett, previous to his late voyage to the South Atlantic, had been engaged in various commercial undertakings on the N. W. coast of America, during a period of seven years: having surveyed the coast from  $36^{\circ}$  to  $60^{\circ}$  N. the inland part of which was before little known to European navigators, he discovered many considerable inlets, particularly between  $50^{\circ}$  and  $53^{\circ}$  N. which were supposed to communicate with Hudson's Bay. These inlets have since been more particularly examined by Captain Vancouver of the royal navy\*.

Captain Colnett made two voyages to China; but on his return from the first of them was unfortunately captured by the Spaniards at Nootka Sound, and detained prisoner thirteen months: losing four of his vessels, and most of his officers, and half the crew, becoming victims to disease, he was at length indebted for his liberty to the spirited conduct

\* See a detail of this Voyage, with extracts, in our Numbers for September, October, and November last.

of our Government. Returning to Nootka in his only remaining vessel, he procured a cargo of furs for China; a prohibition of the sale of these articles taking place, he proceeded, for a market, to the west side of Japan, and east of Corea; on the coast of the latter place, unfortunately losing his rudder, he was obliged to put back into the port of Chusan, on the north part of China: at this place he was in danger of being plundered by the Chinese, and returned to Canton. His vessel was sold at Macao, and he sailed with his cargo in an East India Company's ship for England.

In consequence of an application to the Board of Admiralty, Captain C. was nominated to undertake his present voyage, which was planned in consequence of a memorial from the merchants of the city of London concerned in the South Sea fisheries, to the Board of Trade, for the purpose of discovering such ports for the south whale fishers who voyage round Cape Horn, as might afford them the necessary advantages of refreshment and security to refit.

### EXTRACTS.

#### VIOLENT STORM.

March 23, 1793.

"THE autumnal equinoctial gale came on us the 23d of March, and held upwards of four days, with frequent claps of thunder, accompanied by lightning, hail, and rain. It blew as hard as I ever remember, and, for several hours, we could not venture to show any sail. At the same time a whirlwind, or typhoon, arose to windward, from whence, in one of the squalls, two balls of fire, about the size of cricket-balls, fell on board. One of them struck the anchor, which was hoisted on the forecattle, and, bursting into particles, struck the chief mate and one of the seamen, who fell down in excruciating tortures. On

examining them, several holes appeared to have been burned in their clothes, which were of flannel; and in various parts of their bodies there were small wounds, as if made with an hot iron, of the size of a sixpenny piece. I immediately ordered some of the crew to perform the operation of the Otaheiteans, called *oro mee*\*, which caused a considerable abatement of their pains, but several days elapsed before they were perfectly recovered. The other ball struck the funnel of the caboose, made an explosion equal to that of a swivel gun, and burned several holes in the mizen stay-sail and main-sail, which were handed. At the height of it the barometer was 28°. The alarm which we may be supposed to have experienced during the whirlwind was not allayed by the noise of the birds, who, not considering the ship to be a place of safety, as is the case in common gales, appeared, by the violence of their shrieks and the irregularity of their flight, to be sensible of the danger; for, as the squall approached them, numbers plunged into the sea, to avoid it; while those who could not escape its influence were whirled, in a spiral manner, out of sight, in an instant. It very fortunately reached us only within two cables length of each beam, and so passed ahead of the ship to the north. From our first seeing, to our losing sight of it, was about half an hour. In this gale I lost the greatest part of my live stock, together with all the vegetables that hung at the stern of the ship." P. 14.

#### SKETCH OF THE LIFE OF MR. FALKNER.

"MR. Thomas Falkner was the son of a surgeon of eminence at Manchester, and was brought up in his father's profession, for which he always manifested the most promising dispositions. To complete his professional studies, he was sent to London, to attend Saint Thomas's hospital; and, happening to lodge in Tooley Street, on the Surry bank of the Thames, he made an acquaintance with the master of a ship employed in the Guinea

\* "*Roro mee*. It consists in grasping the fleshy parts of the body, legs, and arms, and working it with the fingers."

trade,

*very common*

trade, who persuaded the young surgeon to accompany him in his next voyage in his professional capacity.—On his return to England, he engaged to go in the same situation on board a merchant-ship to Cadiz, from whence he continued his voyage to Buenos Ayres, a Spanish settlement on the river La Plata. Here he fell sick, and was in so dangerous a state when his ship was ready to depart, as not to be in a condition to be carried on board; so she sailed without him. The Jesuits, of which there was a college at Buenos Ayres, nursed him during his illness with the greatest care and kindest assiduity; and perceiving the very great advantage which they would derive, in their missions, from possessing a brother who was so well skilled in medicine and surgery, spared no pains to win his affection and secure his confidence. In short, they so worked upon his mind, as to persuade him to enter into their college, and, finally, to become one of their order. He now entered upon his ministry among the Indians, who inhabit the vast track of country between the river La Plata and the Straits of Magellan. His skill in the cure of diseases, and in performing chirurgical operations, together with his knowledge of mechanics, rendered his mission successful beyond example. In this country he remained near forty years, and was among the persons appointed by the Spanish government to make a survey of the coasts between the Brazils and the Terra del Fuego, Falkland's islands, &c. When the society of Jesuits was dissolved, he was sent back to Spain, and, after an absence of near forty years, arrived in his native country. Soon after his return to England, he became domestic chaplain to Robert Berkeley, Esq. of Spetchley, near Worcester, a Roman Catholic gentleman of distinguished knowledge, most respectable character, and large fortune. There he wrote the account of Patagonia, which was afterwards published with a map corrected from that of D'Anville, according to his own observations. Mr. Falkner possessed a very acute mind, a general knowledge, and most retentive memory. Of his medical experience and practice I have heard physicians of eminence speak in the highest terms of commendation. His man-

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ners, as may be supposed, from the tenour of his life, were at once singular and inoffensive; and he retained somewhat of his Indian habits to the last.—He died, as I have been informed, about the year 1781." P. 25.

GALLIPAGOE ISLES.—REMARKABLE  
INSTINCT OF BIRDS.

"I WAS very much perplexed to form a satisfactory conjecture how the small birds, which appeared to remain in one spot, supported themselves without water; but the party, on their return, informed me, that, having exhausted all their water, and reposing beneath a prickly-pear tree, almost choked with thirst, they observed an old bird in the act of supplying three young ones with drink, by squeezing the berry of a tree into their mouths. It was about the size of a pea, and contained a watery juice, of an acid but not unpleasant taste. The bark of the tree produces a considerable quantity of moisture, and, on being eaten, allays the thirst. In dry seasons, the land tortoise is seen to gnaw and suck it. The leaf of this tree is like that of the bay-tree; the fruit grows like cherries, whilst the juice of the bark dies the flesh a deep purple, and emits a grateful odour; a quality in common with the greater part of the trees and plants in this island; though it is soon lost, when the branches are separated from the trunks or stems. The leaves of these trees also absorb the copious dews which fall during the night, but in larger quantities at the full and change of the moon; the birds then pierce them with their bills, for the moisture they retain, and which, I believe, they also procure from the various plants and evergreens. But when the dews fail in the summer season thousands of these creatures perish; for, on our return hither, we found great numbers dead in their nests, and some of them almost fledged. It may, however, be remarked, that this curious instinctive mode of finding a substitute for water is not peculiar to the birds of this island, as nature has provided them with a similar resource in the fountain-tree, that flourishes on the Isle Ferro, one of the Canaries; and several other trees and canes which, Churchill tells us, in his voy-

3 N

ages,

ages, are to be found on the mountains of the Philippine Islands." P. 53.

#### CURIOUS PERCH FOR BIRDS.

"IN our passage to the coast, which we made in latitude  $19^{\circ} 28'$ , we passed great quantities of herring, turtle, porpoises, black-fish, devil-fish, and fin-back whale; but the number of birds appeared to be greatly diminished since we left the coast; for at that time there were innumerable flocks of boobies, which were so tame as not only to perch on the different parts of the ship, but even on our boats, and the oars, while they were actually employed in rowing. When the appearance of the weather foretold a squall, or on the approach of night, the turtle generally afforded a place of rest for one of these birds on his back; and though this curious perch was usually an object of contest, the turtle appears to be perfectly at ease and unmoved on the occasion. The victorious bird generally eased the turtle of the sucking fish and maggots that adhered to and troubled him." P. 123.

#### SEAMEN SUPERSTITIOUS.

"WHEN we were in latitude  $24^{\circ}$ , a very singular circumstance happened, which, as it spread some alarm among my people, and awakened their superstitious apprehensions, I shall beg leave to mention. About eight o'clock in the evening an animal rose alongside the ship, and uttered such shrieks and tones of lamentation, so like those produced by the female human voice, when expressing the deepest distress, as to occasion no small degree of alarm among those who first heard it. These cries continued for upwards of three hours, and seemed to increase as the ship sailed from it: I conjectured it to be a female seal, that had lost its cub, or a cub that had lost its dam; but I never heard any noise whatever that approached so near those sounds which proceed from the organs of utterance in the human species. The crew con-

sidered this as another evil omen\*; and the difficulties of our situation were sufficient, without the additional inconvenience of these accidental events, to cause any temporary depression of those spirits which were so necessary to meet the distresses we might be obliged to encounter." P. 169.

#### XCVIII. *Browne's Miscellaneous Sketches.* (Concluded from p. 391.)

##### SUPERSTITION.

"THE present age flatters itself with the praise of total freedom from credulity and superstition. It forgets that infidelity itself may be credulous and superstitious. It was said of Dr. Halley, that he believed every thing but the Bible. If I am not misinformed, some of the German *illuminés*, and the late King of Prussia himself among them, were dupes to the tricks of the Frankfort Jews, who pretended to raise the dead. But putting infidels aside, is the world so totally liberated from its weight? In the lower orders especially in all countries, every one must acknowledge the remains of a plentiful crop. Within my recollection, in Ireland, *Canidias* have been discovered muttering charms over an exfoliated corpse, and not long since I was present at the trial of a dairy-woman, for putting a dead thumb in milk to increase the meal. The superstitions of sailors are proverbial. Are the higher orders perfectly free? The superstition of nurses plentifully communicates itself to mothers, and even in our own sex, most men, I am apprehensive, if closely observed, would be found to have some seeds of it. The observation of the purchasers in a lottery-office for a single day would procure disciples to my opinion; and what are the rantings of gamblers about luck, and their shifting seats and positions to procure it, but instances of the grossest superstition?—Have we forgot the disciples of Main-

\* To explain this, we annex the following short observation in a preceding page—"The superstition of a seaman's mind is not easily subdued, and it was with some difficulty that I could preserve an hen who had been hatched and bred on board, and who at this time was accompanied by a small brood of chickens, from being destroyed, in order to quit the ill omen that had been occasioned by the unexpected crowing of the animal during the preceding night."



aduc and magnetism? Have we forgot the numerous prophecies delivered during the present war, and the search in old books of the last century for something like prophecies, and did we observe no impression amidst the gloom of the times even upon men who were not fools?" P. 213.

## WONDERS.

"IF travellers are absurd in relating wonders, the world is equally absurd in disbelieving them in the gross. I knew a very worthy gentleman who never was believed, and yet never told a falsehood. He had given himself a habit of relating every thing extraordinary which his observant mind had collected in a long life, and never mentioned any ordinary occurrence. Such is often the fate of travellers. When Mr. Bruce spoke of a camera obscura which would hold a large company, it appeared apocryphal, till a common showman exhibited the very same thing in our streets. When he talked to me of pyramidal mountains inverted, I thought it fabulous, till, in common descriptions of Auvergne, I found accounts of *montagnes escarpées* of a shape not entirely dissimilar; and I own some discoveries of this nature so far altered my opinion, that when he talked to me of carving from live animals, I only suspended my assent, without decided disbelief\*. The wonderful story of the Upas, to be found in the notes to the poem of the Botanic Garden, seems only an exaggeration of the qualities of the poison-tree, well known in some parts of America, or of the marsh miasma, which Townsend† searched for in Spain; and the fish whose similitude to the human form gave rise to the fable of the mermaid, is common on the coast of Africa‡. The unicorn is evidently the rhinoceros, and the griffin a mere picture drawn by terror, in describing some tremendous snake. I feel therefore a tendency different

from the greater part of the world, and am rather inclined to believe than disbelieve, that is, to look for some foundation of truth at least, though perhaps magnified or distorted." P. 226.

## MANNERS AND CUSTOMS.

"DR. Henry, and many others, have given us descriptions of the manners of the centuries before the last, but I want a sketch of those of the last and present centuries. It surely would make an amusing work, and the materials are abundant for the man who has leisure. I would begin with the Restoration, and mark the dresses, the fashions, the hours, the reigning taste, the favourite trilles, the places of amusement. For instance, when Clarendon tells me, that Lord Stafford came down to the House the day he was impeached, at three o'clock in the afternoon, and was surprised to hear that the House was sitting so late, it marks amusingly the wonderful change of hours of business; when he mentions, that Mr. Hyde met the Earl of Bedford at a place called Piccadilly, which was a fair house for entertainment and gaming, with handsome gravel walks, with shade, and where were an upper and lower bowling-green, whither very many of the nobility and gentry of the best quality resorted for exercise and conversation, it divertingly shows the increase of Westminster, and the wondrous change of the abodes of pleasure.

"In the reign of Charles the Second the numerous productions of the drama, and such playful works as the *Memoirs of the Count de Grammont*, would afford ample materials. From the latter, we find that Spring Garden was the favourite place of resort for the *man of mode*, that masks and vizards were worn not only in the Park but at the play; and Sir Fopling Flutter will tell us, that gloves up to the elbows, huge periwigs, long waisls,

\* "Why should the Abyssinian believe that among us men can walk under water by means of the diving-bell, or fly in the air by aid of the balloon? Undoubtedly the simplicity of the old travellers, Thevenot, Tavernier, Bernier, and Spon, impress belief more strongly than later ones. I read Bell's Travels with infinite pleasure, because I know that his character was such, that in his vicinity it was almost a proverbial saying, Whatever John Bell of Antermony tells you is true."

† "See Townsend's Travels in Spain."

‡ "See Astley's Collection of Voyages."

and pantaloons, were the dress of a gentleman, and that ombre was his game; and the Rehearsal, that Canary wine was thought exquisite.

"In King William's reign, Hanover Square was the termination of Westminster; St. James's parish is often mentioned as containing the whole fashionable world, and a frolicsome supper at an India House was a most fashionable entertainment\*. The hours appear to have been nearer to the present than is usually imagined. Lady Townly visits till eight, and then saunters at Mrs. Idle's till court-time—after the drawing-room takes a short supper, then goes to Lord N.'s assembly, and is home at three in the morning. Parliament men even then dined sometimes at midnight; Sir Francis Wronghead loses his dinner three days in the week; quadrille was the fashionable game; White's, Will's, and Tom's, the great coffee-houses or taverns; and there is an opera as well as a theatre and masquerades; yet, amidst all this, Aimwell and Sir Harry Wildair

take snuff; and in the next reign Sir Plume, in the Rape of the Lock, is vain of the same filthy fashion; Sir Charles Easy takes away a lady's snuff-box, and it is Tattle's present to Miss Prue, in Love for Love.

"In Queen Anne's reign there is an inundation of foreign entertainments; China and India screens are the rage; bohea tea is the first in estimation; claret is mentioned, but Florence wine seems to be most highly prized; Spring Garden and Covent Garden are fashionable walks; Locket's, Pontack's, and the Rummer, the famous taverns: the women wear a light cloak, called a scarf, and patches on the face; the men Steinkirk cravats and Rammillie hats: and here Swift's Journal, written to Stella, would be an admirable affluence.

"I have merely made the little short sketch, in hopes of pointing out to some man of leisure how entertaining such a work might be. I have said, that I do not write essays, but hints for essays †." P. 229.

\* "Journey to London."

† "How many amusing queries could I propose for such a man, such as, When were our military uniform and facings introduced? What was the military garb in Cromwell's time? Was red then the clothing of the English troops? When did that become a national colour? with a million of others. I have four volumes of drawings of dresses for 300 years past, but they do not answer this query."

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